Upgradation of post offices in Tamil Nadu

3830. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices opened in Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(b) the name of places in the State where new post offices and branch post offices are likely to be opened during the next three years; and

(c) the number of post offices upgraded in Tamil Nadu during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of Post Offices opened in Tamil Nadu during the last three years are as under :—

1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
24	12	17

(b) Post Offices are opened subject to justification as per prescribed norms. The opening of new Post offices depends upon availability of resources such as funds and sanctioning of Posts by Ministry of Finance. The targets for Tamil Nadu for the next three years are yet to be finalised.

(c) The number of Post offices upgraded in Tamil Nadu during the last years are as under :—

1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	Nil	Nil

P and T facilities in Arunachal Pradesh

3831. SHRI NABAM REBIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of new telephone exchanges proposed to be opened in Arunachal Pradesh during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) what are the details of post offices proposed to be set up in the State during the next two years; and

(c) the steps being taken so far by Government in this regard ?